

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 30, 1997

LB 269

with the area of volunteer fire departments. One of the issues that we've had in dealing with the Revenue Committee is how to handle volunteer fire departments. And what it does, it allows the counties with more than 100,000 inhabitants to create a separate public safety commission under LB 1177 for fire service and fire services. Last year we had a bill that for public safety would be both police and for fire. What we've done with the large county, three largest counties is to allow them to have a...just for fire service itself. The second part, it allows counties to allocate their level of authority for interlocal agreement to miscellaneous districts instead of taking it themselves. The situation we have in the area, my county, and also in Douglas County is we have volunteer fire department but there are paid members of the fire department; and they do not fit under the 2 or 3 cent levy. So this would simply allow them if Millard would go to the county board, say, of Douglas County or Sarpy County and say we want more money to run our fire department, they could allow them within that only the Millard district, people that live in that district. The county can't go over the 50 cents that it's authorized. So there's a limited amount that it does. It allows the county to allocate to subdivision levy authority in excess of their statutory limits although they will still not be allowed to exceed the limits. So in the case maximum levy is 7 cents, the county board could authorize a portion of the budget of 8 cents. But the county could say, no, it couldn't go to a vote of the people. It's simply to take care of a situation where there is volunteer fire department and paid people that's in...we've simply limited to the three largest counties, Lancaster, Sarpy, and Douglas County. And it simply allows some flexibility as it relates to this problem dealing with volunteer fire department. Senator Janssen has a study that we're going to look at this because that's one of the situations that we addressed or tried to address in the Revenue Committee is volunteer fire department. But this kind of meets a need where you have both volunteers and paid fire department. Be glad to answer any questions as it relates to...another part of the amendment deals with...puts a cap on the county agriculture society of 3.5 cents. So I'd be glad to answer any questions.

SPEAKER WITHHEM: Senator Schelper.